

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Arts Commission Conference Room
150 W. Market Street Suite 618
Indianapolis, Indiana
March 13, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Dick Stifel, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Dick Stifel, Jeanne Mirro, Karen Ellerbrook, Sandi Clark, Lynn Jakubowski, Gilberto Cárdenas, Kelly Schreckengast, Irene Smith-King, Pam Hicks, Suzie Rentschler, Steve Tuchman, Earl Williams

Members present via teleconference: Judy Hess

Members absent: Ron Stratten, Bill Hopper

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Bobbie Garver, Kristina Davis, April Blevins, Laura Frank, Emelita Tolentino, Eric Freeman, Dennis Hardin

Guests: Jan Shupert-Arick (RAP chair), Michael Kos (State Budget Analyst)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mr. Stifel convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Ms. Rentschler moved to accept the consent agenda. Ms. Ellerbrook seconded. Motion passed.

3. **Chair's Report.** .

A. Governor's Office Issues. Mr. Stifel asked all members of the commission to submit names for consideration as prospective commissioners. Current vacancies include the slots being held by Steve Tuchman, Ronald Stratten, and Bill Hopper. Sandi Clark will complete her second term in June 2009, and Lynn Jakubowski will be leaving the commission due to a family move out-of-state. Mr. Stifel emphasized the importance of keeping a list of viable candidates flowing to the Governor's office. He also thanked commissioner Pam Hicks for her assistance in arranging a meeting for IAC officers with the Governor, to occur later today at the Governor's office. IAC has been working to arrange such a meeting for several months. Attendees will include Mr. Stifel, Mr. Ricci, Ms. Ellerbrook, Ms. Mirro, and Ms. Hicks. Mr. Stifel then presented a print-out (attached) detailing four possible budget scenarios for FY2010. All state agencies have been asked to trim their budgets, and the official budget is moving through the legislature. Final budget numbers for IAC will not be known for several weeks, but Mr. Ricci felt that it was important to strategize what changes would occur, depending on the amount of funding in the final budget. Mr. Ricci explained the possible scenarios, which include a \$500,000 cut in the budget, a \$1,000,000 cut, and a \$2,000,000 cut. Each level of reduction

would bring about changes in the levels of grant monies available in the several granting categories. Mr. Stifel asked for a motion to approve the budget scenarios as a basis for moving forward once the final budget is known. Ms. Mirro moved for approval; Mr. Cárdenas seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Stifel also remarked on the success of Arts Advocacy Day at the Statehouse which occurred on Thursday, March 12. He and others were impressed by the number of legislators who were available for conversations during the course of the events.

4. Executive Director's Report.

A. Year-to-Date Financial Activity. Mr. Ricci presented a print-out (attached) showing the IAC year-to-date financial activity through January 31, 2009. IAC is under budget and on target to remain within the FY2009 budget. Mr. Ricci thanked Deputy Director Michelle Anderson and Financial Manager Emelita Tolentino for the continued work in managing the budget.

B. Federal Economic Stimulus Package Monies in the Arts. Mr. Ricci reported that \$323,000 will be granted to the State of Indiana through the IAC. Up to \$50,000 may be retained by the Commission to support positions on the IAC staff. Federal stimulus monies will be available to local arts organizations through the IAC, or through Arts Midwest, or directly from NEA, although certain restrictions apply to prevent overlapping grants. Mr. Ricci presented the "Indiana Arts Commission FY2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant Guidelines and Application" (attached) and asked the Commission to approve. Mr. Tuchman moved for approval of the guidelines; Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed.

C. Program and Partnership Updates. Mr. Ricci and Ms. Ellerbrook discussed the events of June 11 – 12, 2009, which will include the dedication of the new Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Memorial in Lincoln State Park, coinciding with the next IAC quarterly business meeting on June 12. Mr. Ricci commented on the recent review of the IAC application for federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a three-year funding cycle; the review occurred at the offices of the NEA in Washington, D.C. Mr. Ricci reported that the NEA was very impressed with the application and gave it a favorable review. Mr. Ricci also reported that he will be attending National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on March 30 – 31, 2009. He will be joining a small group of arts advocates from Indiana who will be meeting with members of Congress to discuss federal funding for the arts. Mr. Ricci will also be attending the Arts Midwest Executive Director's Summit on March 23; this summit is to plan guidelines and uses of the federal stimulus monies throughout the membership of Arts Midwest.

Break. Mr. Stifel declared a break at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Cárdenas and Ms. Rentschler excused themselves from the meeting. Mr. Stifel reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

5. Committee Reports.

A. Committee on the Future. Chair Sandi Clark reported on the new IAC strategic planning process, which is now underway. She remarked that the National Endowment for the Arts recommends substantial public input at an early point in the planning process, and this recommendation will be followed. She reminded the commission that former IAC Chair Mr. Ronald Stratten, has offered his services *gratis* as consultant in the planning process. She added

that the strategic plan will also include consideration of the downturn in the economy and the need to offer avenues of support, including crisis management, to struggling arts organizations.

B. Program Evaluation Committee. Chair Karen Ellerbrook reported that the revision of the Regional Arts Partners guidelines and application have been completed and are available on the IAC website. Mr. Ricci then reported that the Capacity Building Program grants have been suspended, excluding current grantees, pending reconsideration of their impact and a desire by IAC to be more effective during hard economic times in providing assistance and stimulus to struggling arts organizations. Monies previously earmarked for the CBP will be folded in with other monies to establish a larger, more-encompassing assistance program. Mr. Tuchman added his opinion about the importance of being able to provide support. Mr. Stifel moved to approve the suspension of the Capacity Building Program as it currently exists, in order to re-allocate those funds to create a more comprehensive assistance program. Ms. Hicks seconded. Motion passed. IAC Community Development Manager Kristina Davis then reported on the status of Cultural District Legislation. The initial legislation, passed in 2008, provided for the establishment of Cultural Districts throughout Indiana. New legislation proposed this year, which included tax incentives and other means of funding, did not make it out of committee and will not be passed this year. However, the application for designation as a Cultural District will be posted on the IAC website in May 2009. Artisan Development Project Director Eric Freeman then gave a brief update on the status of the Artisan Project, calling it “a project whose time has come”. He recapped events of 2008 and reported on the artisan exhibit currently on display at the Indiana State Museum. Ms. Ellerbrook then presented a print-out (attached) showing all of the dates for the upcoming Individual Artist Program panels, which will begin on March 26 and conclude on May 28. (Full PEC report attached).

C. Advocacy and Awareness Committee. Chair Jeanne Mirro reported that the planning for the Governor’s Arts Awards is proceeding well towards the event date of September 25, 2009 in Muncie, Indiana. Commissioner Earl Williams, who is from Muncie, is chair of the planning committee; other committee members include commissioner Pam Hicks, Lawren Mills from the Governor’s office, Wayne Schuetter of Jasper, Terri Whitt Bailey of Muncie, and Miah Michaelson and Jon DePrez, who are members of the A & A committee. She also reported that the search for an artist to create the award has yielded four candidates, and that the final selection will come by the end of March. Ms. Mirro also urged everyone to continue contacting their state senators in support of arts funding in the FY2010 budget. Deputy Director Michelle Anderson acknowledged the work of IAC staff members April Blevins and Laura Frank in providing advocacy materials. (Full Advocacy & Awareness Committee report attached.)

D. Cultural Trust Administrative Board. Chair Steve Tuchman presented the current report (attached) showing Trust fund activity through January 31, 2009. The total Trust Fund balance is \$1,601,617.06. He also remarked upon the apparent decline in license plate sales, suggesting that it might be time for a new design to stimulate sales..

6. **Regional Arts Partners.** Chair Jan Shupert-Arick reported that the RAP quarterly meeting was held in Indianapolis on March 11, and that the primary topic of discussion was the new RAP guidelines and application process.

7. **Old Business.** Mr. Ricci announced that the state-wide Poetry Out Loud finals were held in Indianapolis, attended by IAC Community Development Manager Susan Britsch, and that the winner, for the third year in a row, was from Broad Ripple High School, and will compete in the national finals in Washington, D.C. in April.

8. **New Business.** Commissioner Lynn Jakubowski announced her imminent move to California, and that this will likely be her last meeting as commissioner. Mr. Stifel thanked her for her service to IAC, and reminded everyone of the importance of finding capable candidates to fill IAC vacancies.

9. **Closing Comments.** Mr. Stifel encouraged everyone to plan to attend the Lincoln Boyhood dedication and next quarterly business meeting, to be held in Lincoln City on June 12. Mr. Ricci expressed his thanks to IAC staff for their hard work and optimism during the budget process.

10. **Adjourn.** Ms. Clark moved to adjourn. Ms. Smith-King seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.